

citement of voting in or voting out his neighbor; or, better still, of being voted in or voted out himself, as the *flut* of the sovereign people may decide. Independent, however, of this consideration, the value of the general diffusion of knowledge, which is chiefly effected by the newspaper press, can hardly be overrated. There can be little risk in saying, that without the facilities for conveying information, which are afforded by the joint action of the great modern improvements in locomotion and printing, the existence of a Republican Government among a population so thinly scattered as ours, over so vast a territory, would have been entirely impossible."

Below we insert the reply of Wm. Wright Esq., of Palmyra, to an article from the pen of the Editor of the Boonslick Democrat, which we have found in the Missouri Courier of the 6th inst. accompanied with a request that the different democratic papers in the State give it an insertion. We cheerfully comply with the request, not that we entertain the same feeling towards the editor of the Democrat, but in order that we may give Mr. Wright an opportunity to disabuse the public mind of any unfavorable impression which may have been made against him. This we consider nothing more than an act of justice to Mr. W., as we may have been slightly instrumental in awakening this prejudice, if any in reality exists. An attentive perusal will however, convince the reader that he does not confine his thrusts solely to the editor of the Democrat, but as his insinuations though evidently intended for us, do not exactly apply, we will leave it with him, the Courier, and the Democrat to fight it out:

To the Editor of the Boonslick Democrat.

Sir—It is with no ordinary emotions of regret, that I am compelled, in justice to myself, thus to notice the slanderous and unwarrantable assault which you thought proper to make upon me, in your paper of the 20th instant.

The falsehood of your statements is only equalled by the malignant manner in which you have expressed them; and if it were not for the purpose of correcting the false impressions which your publication was designed to produce, self respect would dictate the propriety of treating it with silent contempt.

The charge which you have so boldly and fearlessly made, that I "would perill the ascendancy of Democratic principles to gratify my own ambition." I, as boldly and fearlessly pronounce a base and malicious slander. I yield to no man in the State, in devotion to the principles of Jeffersonian Democracy, and appeal, with confidence and pride, to those Democrats with whom I have been associated for fourteen years, to sustain the truth of the declaration.

You, sir, have assumed a high and responsible position—a position to which you must show some stronger claims than I am aware of, before I shall submit to be read out of the Democratic ranks, by a man of yesterday. Who, let me ask, is the editor of the Boonslick Democrat? And, by what authority has he become a Democratic Pope, vested with power to issue his Bull of ex-communication against me, who stood side by side with those old veterans, John J. Lowry and James Earickson, in the great contest which decided the fate of Federalism in Missouri, when the gallant and martyred Pettis achieved the glorious victory over the most popular man in the State. And here, sir, if you will pardon me, I will assert, without the fear of successful contradiction, that on that occasion, I rendered the State some service.—For want of a milder term, I am constrained to give the charge of falsehood to the imputation, "that the gentlemen, whose names are signed to it (the letter), are the innocent dupes and tools of this would be Congressman." Nor is it true that they have been overreached by me in their zeal for my advancement.

So far from my attempting to use them as instruments to minister to the gratification of my political aspirations, I had never in my life thought of being a candidate for any such station, until the gentlemen whose names are to that letter, informed me of the determination of my friends to submit my name to the consideration of the Convention. I had aimed at no such distinction, and some of the gentlemen can inform you, that I objected when the suggestion was made, upon the ground that some other individual could be selected whose qualifications would render him capable of discharging the highly responsible duties of the station, with more credit to himself, and benefit to the State. To this, the reply was, that if my friends demanded my services, I ought not to hesitate to yield to their wishes.

You here have the extent of my desire to break down the party, and the means used to accomplish the object; and you may also see the great injustice which I have received at your hands. Upon their own res-

pensibility was that letter written, which a few individuals have attempted to pervert for the promotion of their own designs; how far they may be able to succeed, the future will disclose.

"In these last days," new lights have sprung upon the world in regard to politics, as well as to other things, and I hope sir, you will illuminate the dark and benighted regions by informing the Democrats upon the borders of the State, in what manner the presentation of my name to their consideration, is to work "DESTRUCTION TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY."

You have charged me with being a "foe to Democracy." And upon what grounds?

Have I done any thing that any man in the State has not a right to do?

Is it anti-democratic for a man to yield to the call of his friends to serve them, if they think him honest and capable?

Is it democratic to expel a man from his party because his friends think proper to present him as a candidate for an office which the people have the right to bestow?

Is it anti-democratic for a man who resides in the North, to have his name presented by his friends as a candidate, because he had not been selected by the Legislative Caucus?

Is it democratic to ex-communicate me, because the democrats of Marion recommended my name to the democracy in other portions of the State, being ignorant at the time that the candidates were all selected at Jefferson City last spring?

If this be democracy, "good Lord deliver me from it."

If I had been apprised at the time my friends called upon me, that the candidates for the next Congress were all arranged at Jefferson last winter, I should not have given consent for my name to go before the Convention. But in as much as I was ignorant of that fact, and my friends being equally so, I hope your holiness will absolve me from the responsibility of breaking down the democratic party. I had no such intention or desire, and I know the gentlemen who wrote that letter too well, to permit the impression to be palmed upon the democracy of Missouri, that they had any such object in view. It was not division, but the preservation of the harmony of the party, they were aiming at.

Having vindicated myself from the malignant slanders contained in your editorials of the 20th, I shall close this communication with a few remarks to the Democrats of the State, whose hostility has been attempted to be aroused against me, upon the most unfounded and unjustifiable grounds, and whose authority alone, I shall recognize as being competent to expel me from their ranks.

The cause of democracy has nothing to fear at my hands. I am the last man in the State, who would throw any obstacles in the way of its triumphant march; and if I thought for a moment, that the presentation of my name to the Convention, would produce any difficulty in our ranks, it shall never be submitted with my consent. With this declaration, as frankly made, as it is sincerely entertained, I hope all apprehensions in regard to the integrity of the party, so far as I am concerned, will at once cease. And, in conclusion, permit me to say, that should the partiality of my friends place my name before the Convention, and that body should find an individual whose honesty, capacity and devotion to the cause, should give him stronger claims upon their confidence and regard, no man shall excel me in the cheerfulness with which I shall submit to their decision.

WM. WRIGHT

Palmyra, Oct. 30th 1841.
The Democratic papers in the State, will please give this an insertion.

W. W.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Italian Inquisition.

The inquisition here in the city of Venice, attended by official informers and street tribunals, became one of the most cruel engines of tyranny ever known, perhaps under any government. No man's life, or liberty, or property, was secure. When any fell under suspicion, they were privately arrested and in most cases they were heard of no more. Every thing was conducted with the most profound secrecy—the accused knew not the secret hand that stabbed him. Near the palace, and separated only by a canal, is a prison; this prison is connected with the palace by a high covered bridge, called the Bridge of Sighs. This bridge has, or had, (for it is now closed up) two passages; one leading into the council chambers, and the other leading to more private apartments and dungeons under the palace itself. These dungeons were also accessible from the palace by a secret passage, which was unknown to the public until the arena of these apartments of death were laid open by the French. Indeed it is said that the citizens generally did not know of the existence of these wretched cells. Here the trembling

victims were led to torture and to death.—We visited these gloomy prisons they were dark as night and consisted each of one arch of heavy masonry with a single hole for the purpose of re-piration. They have generally been lined with wood, but Napoleon permitted the citizens to enter and tear out all that was moveable in these horrid cells.—Here was a grated window, where the victims used to be strangled. They were seated upon a block within, and a rope fastened at one end, passed through the grate and around the neck, and out again to the machine, by the turning of which the head and shoulders were brought up to the grate, and the poor wretch was strangled by the cord that passed around his neck. Another place was fitted up for decapitation, like the guillotine. The heavy knife fitted to a frame, was raised by machinery to the proper distance, the victim being fixed in a right position, when it fell and struck the head from the body, and a trench in the stone, and holes made for the purpose, conveyed the blood down into the water below. All this was done by night, and with the utmost privacy; and here were the little cages in the wall where the executioner placed his lamp while he performed his bloody work.—[Fisk's Travels in Europe.

THE ROSE.—I saw a rose perfect in beauty; it rested gently upon its stalk, and its perfume filled the air. Many stopped to gaze upon it and taste its fragrance, and its owner hung over it with delight. I passed it again, and behold it was gone—its stem was leafless—its root was withered—the enclosure which surrounded it was broken. The spoiler had been there; he saw that many admired it, and knew that it was dear to him who planted it, and besides it he had no other to love. Yet he snatched it secretly from the hand that cherished it; it hung its head and faded, and when he saw that its glory had departed, he flung it rudely away. But it left a thorn in his bosom, and vainly did he seek to extract it for now it pierces the spoiler even in his hour of mirth. And when I saw that no man who had loved the beauty of the rose gathered again its scattered leaves, or bound up the stalk which the hand of violence had broken, I looked earnestly at the spot where it grew, and my soul received instruction. And I said let her who is full of beauty and admiration, setting like the queen of flowers in majesty among the daughters of women, let her watch lest vanity enter her heart, beguiling her to rest proudly upon slippery places, and be not high minded, but fear.—Mrs. Sigourney.

Death-bed Repentance.

The last rays of the declining sun shone through the lattice of the sick man's chamber, lighting up his pale features with a grim earthly aspect. The rolling of his restless eye, showed plainly that conscience, so long bound down, had burst her fetters, and was speaking with a voice louder than her wont.

"Have you made a clean breast, my son," said his confessor, "or is there some sin yet unrepented of, that causes your distress?"

"Speak, I entreat you in penitence and truth as you may hope to be forgiven."

"There is one act of my past life," replied the guilty man, "that weighs heavy on my conscience, and if it was not in my power to make reparations for the crime, I should despair indeed. But as time is still left me to make amends for a duty so long neglected, I will do it now, and then hope to recover.—For five long years have I taken a paper, and have never paid a penny for it yet! Here is the money; send a servant with it to the editor, and ask his pardon."

Delinquent reader! In the language of a celebrated roman Consul, "the man got well!"

From the Foreign Quarterly Review.

JACOB FRANK.

Founder of the sect of Franks in Poland.

He was a native of Wallachia, but little or nothing is known of the early circumstances of his life. About the year 1757 he came to Poland with the avowed object of reforming the perverted doctrines of Talmud, the followers of which accused him of infidelity. Supported by some influential partisans, Frank successively resisted the Talmudists; but the affair becoming serious, both parties were summoned before the Ecclesiastical Court of Lemberg, and subjected to a singular trial. They were commanded to hold a public discussion on the merits of their respective tenets, and the defeated party was to embrace Christianity. Frank acknowledged himself vanquished, and was accordingly baptized with his followers, the most distinguished persons in the country standing as god-fathers. From Lemberg he proceeded to Warsaw where the number of his disciples considerably increased; but a rumor being spread that he was in the habit of entertaining them in secret with the most fantastic visions, he was again cited before an ecclesiastical tribunal. There he affirmed that our Saviour and the Prophet Elias had appeared to him, prior to his arrival in Poland, commanded him to convert the Jews, and that he was still reminded in nightly visions of his mission. He said however, in conclusion, that should the Church disapprove of his proceedings, he was ready to obey its commands like a dutiful son. He was acquitted of having any bad intentions, but, lest he should for the future time use his influence for

a bad purpose, he has confined in the monastery of Czenstochowa. On being released, some time after, he retired into Austria, where Maria Theresa gave him protection, with the intention of making him instrumental in the conversion of the Jews. After a residence of several years at Buron in Moravia and then at Vienna, he finally settled at Offenback near Frankfort. There he lived in regal state, and was waited upon by Chamberlains and pages, his disciples. The rich contributions he constantly received from Poland, enabled him to defray the expenses of his court until his death in 1792. He was buried according to the Roman Catholic ritual, and a cross was erected over his tomb. His daughter next presided for some time over the sect; and it is generally believed that the present chief of the Frankists is a distinguished lawyer, a member of the late Polish Diet, now living in France as an exile. A great number of them reside at Warsaw, all moving in respectable circles of society, and are mostly physicians or lawyers.

Some assert that the Frankists only outwardly profess themselves Christians, and that in their hearts they adhere strictly to pure Mosaism. It is difficult to decide this question; but there is no doubt that such a simulation of Christianity by the Jews has many precedents. There are unquestionably swarms of such mysterious personages in Russia, who not unfrequently hold high offices in the state. It is also a historical fact that the same simulation was practiced with perfect success in Spain and Portugal. A Jew is said to have even exercised the office of grand inquisitor in Portugal, and only to have revealed, on his death bed, his real faith. According to the testimony of the celebrated Grobio, a Spanish Jew, who says that he himself had feigned Christianity, monks of various descriptions, and even Jesuits used to come from Spain, and expiate their simulation before the grand synagogue at Amsterdam. With such facts as those before their eyes, those who think that the Frankists are only half Christians have some reasons on their side.

The real tenets of Frank have been accurately ascertained. He is said to have maintained that both Elias and our Saviour were still in the world, and that they continued to appoint twelve Apostles for the propagation of Christianity. Though he did not himself claim to be considered as Messiah, he never yet objected to being called so by others. It is also asserted that he believed that he had received a commission to unite all religious persuasions. Until more satisfactory proofs be adduced to the contrary, we may, however, call the Frankists Judeo-Christians.

Portrait of Franklin.

The following sketch of the American philosopher, is from Lord Brougham's new work, "Statemen in the time of George III."

"One of the most remarkable men certainly of our times as a politician, or of any age, as a philosopher, was Franklin, who stands alone in combining together these two characters, the greatest that man can sustain, and in this, that having borne the first part in enlarging science by one of the greatest discoveries ever made, he bore the second part in founding one of the greatest empires in the world.

In this truly great man, every thing seems to concur that goes towards the constitution of exalted merit. First, he was the architect of his own fortune. Born to the humblest station, he raised himself by his talents and his industry first to the place in society, which may be attained with the help only of ordinary abilities, great application, and good luck, but next to the loftiest heights which a daring and happy genius alone can scale; and the poor printer's boy, who, at one period of his life had no covering to shelter his head from the dews of the night, rent in twain the proud dominion of England, and lived to be the Ambassador of the Commonwealth which he had formed, at the Court of the haughty Monarchs of France, who had been his allies.

Then he had been tried by prosperity as well as adverse fortune, and had passed unhurt through the perils of both. No ordinary apprentice, no common place journeyman, ever laid the foundation of his independence in habits of industry and temperance more deep than he did, whose genius was afterwards to rank him with the Galileos and Newtons of the old world. No patrician, born to shine in Courts, or assist at the councils of Monarchs, ever bore his honours in a lofty station more easily, or was less spoiled by the enjoyment of them, than this common workman did when negotiating with royal representatives, or caressed by all the beauty and fashions of the most brilliant court in Europe.

Again, he was self-taught in all he knew.—His hours of study were stolen from those of sleep and of meals, or gained by some ingenious contrivance for reading, while the work of his daily calling went on. Assisted by none of the hopes which affluence tenders to the study of the rich, he had to supply the place of tutors by redoubled diligence, and of commentaries by repeated perusal. Nay, the possession of books was to be obtained by copying what the art he himself exercised, furnished easily to others.

Next, the circumstances under which others succumb, he made to yield, and to his own purpose—a success

ended in a complete triumph, after appearing despatched for years; a great discoverer in philosophy, without the ordinary helps to knowledge; a writer famed for his chaste style without a classical education, a skilful negotiator, though never bread to politics, ending as a favorite, nay a pater of fashions, when the guest of frivolous courts, the life which he had begun in garrets and work-shops.

Lastly, combinations of faculties, in others deemed impossible, appeared easy and natural in him. The philosopher, delighting in speculation, was also eminently a man of action. Ingenious reasoning, refined and subtle consultation, were in him combined with prompt resolution, and inflexible firmness of purpose. To a lively fancy, he joined a learned and deep reflection; his original and inventive genius tooped to the convenient alliance of the most ordinary prudence of every-day affairs; the mind that soared above the clouds and was conversant with the loftiest of human contemplations, disdained not to make proverbs, & feign parables for the guidance of uneducated youths, and sensible maidens; and the hands that sketched a free constitution for a whole continent, or drew down the lightnings from heaven, easily and cheerfully lent themselves to simplify the apparatus by which truths were to be illustrated, or discoveries pursued.

His discoveries were made with hardly any apparatus at all, and if at any time he had been led to employ instruments of a somewhat less ordinary description, he never seemed satisfied until he had, as it were, afterwards translated the process by resolving the problem by such simple machinery, that you might say he did it wholly unaided by apparatus. The experiments by which the identity of lightning and electricity was demonstrated, were made with a sheet of brown paper, a bit of twine, a silk thread, and an iron key.

Upon the integrity of this man, whether in public or in private life, there rests no stain.—Strictly honest, and scrupulously punctual in all his dealings, he preserved in the highest fortune that regularity which he had practised as well as inculcated in the lowest.

In domestic life he was faultless, and in the intercourse of society delightful. There was a constant good humor and a playful wit, easy and of high relish, without any ambition to shine, the natural fruit of his lively fancy, his solid natural good sense, and his cheerful temper, that gave his conversation an unspeakable charm, and alike suited every circle, from the humblest to the most elevated. With all his strong opinions, so often solemnly declared, so imperishably recorded in his deeds, he retained a tolerance for those who differed with him, which could not be surpassed in men whose principles hang so loosely about them as to be taken up for a convenient cloak, and laid down when found to impede their progress. In his family he was every thing that worth, warm affections, and sound prudence could contribute, to make a man both useful and amiable, respected and beloved.

In religion, he would be reckoned by many a latitudinarian, yet it is certain that his mind was imbued with a deep sense of the divine perfections, a constant impression of our accountable nature, and a lively hope of future enjoyment.—Accordingly, his death bed, the test of both faith and works, was easy and placid, resigned and devout, and indicated at once an unflinching retrospect of the past, and a comfortable assurance of the future.

If we turn from the truly great man whom we have been contemplating, to his celebrated contemporary in the Old World, (Frederick the Great,) who only affected the philosophy which Franklin possessed, and employed his talents for civil and military affairs, in extinguishing that independence which Franklin's life was consecrated to establish, the contrast is marvellous indeed, between the Monarch and the Printer.

The "Prince de Joinville" arrived last night on the steamer *Loane*. He travelled, we are told, in true republican style. Having left Galesa on the steamer *Nuvoo*, which grounded on the Upper Rapids, the Prince, with his suite of seven, there chartered a wagon for Warsaw, where he arrived at 10 o'clock in the night, and was obliged to take lodgings on the bar-room floor. He was very sociable on the boat, and seemed desirous to learn all he could of the ways and manners of the western world. This is right.—[St. Louis New Era.

THE FUNERAL OF MR. FORTYTH took place at Washington on Sunday, and was attended by all the Representatives of Foreign Governments now in Washington, by the heads of our Executive departments, the General-in-Chief of the Army, and many other officers of the Government, civil and military, as well as many private citizens. The religious services were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Hawley and the Rev. Mr. Butler of the Episcopal Church.

ALTON MARKET.—The Alton Telegraph of the 6th says that "Beef continues to come in, in small lots, and obtain the prices heretofore quoted by us—two and a half and three dollars per hundred—about 650 head have been slaughtered here this week.

Wheat, as commanded throughout the week seventy cents per bushel. A large quantity has been taken in principle, we believe, at the Cincinnati market, and it is a